Petronet LNG terminal at Kochi

*323. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether statutory approvals for the project Petronet LNG terminal at Kochi have been granted;

(b) the details of the pre-project activities;

(c) whether the arrangement for gas supply has been finalized;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any further formalities to be completed prior to the commissioning of the project;

(f) if so, details thereof;

(g) whether there is any time-frame fixed for the commissioning of the project; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) has obtained the necessary statutory approvals in respect of Kochi terminal. Approvals in respect of the Concession Agreement and the Land Lease Agreement with Cochin Port Trust have yet to be obtained.

(b) The following pre-project activities in respect of the LNG terminal at Kochi have been completed:

1. Land Survey and Soil Investigation.

2. Seabed Engineering and Oceanographic Investigations.

3. Marine Geo-technical Investigations.

4. Rapid and Comprehensive Marine and Terrestrial Environmental Impact Assessment Study.

5. Physical and Mathematical Model Studies.

6. Marine and Terrestrial Risk Analysis.

7. Detailed Feasibility Report.

8. Basic Engineering Package.

(c) and (d) PLL is in advanced stage of discussions for the supply of LNG from Gorgon project, Australia.

(e) to (h) Formalities relating to, *inter-alia*, execution of Concession Agreement and Land Lease Agreement are required to be completed before the commissioning of the Kochi LNG project. The project is estimated for mechanical completion around fourth quarter of 2011.

Tourism package for Goa

*324. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to give any package to the State Government of Goa to give a boost to the tourism industry there;

(b) whether Government proposes to approve any special project proposed by the State Government in this regard;

(c) whether the proposed tourism policy of Government has been finalized; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primarily undertaken by the State Governments themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised in consultation with the State Governments every year for Product/ Infrastructure development of tourist destinations/circuits. The project proposals which are complete in all respect, are appraised on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds released, subject to availability during the financial year.

During the year 2007-08, five project proposals for grant of Central Financial Assistance were received from the Government of Goa. These proposals were not completed as per guidelines and hence these could not be sanctioned. However, during the Tenth Plan period, projects worth Rs. 157.26 lakh were sanctioned for integrated development of tourism in the State of Goa.

(c) and (d) The National Tourism Policy has been formulated in the year 2002 to position tourism as a major engine of economic growth, to harness the direct and multiplier effects of tourism on employment generation, economic development and poverty eradication in an environmentally sustainable manner and to create and develop tourism infrastructure in partnership with States, private sector and other agencies.

Percentage of irrigated land

*325. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of irrigated land over the total area of agricultural land, State-wise;

(b) the area of land coming under irrigation during the financial year 2007-08, State-wise; and

(c) the target of irrigation fixed for the year 2007-08 and the percentage of the same achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The State-wise percentage of irrigated land over the total area of Agricultural land based on 'Land Use Statistics' of Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2005-06 is given at the Statement (*See* below). Information in respect of area of land coming under irrigation during 2007-08 is not available.

(c) Year-wise target for area under irrigation are not projected by Ministry of Agriculture. However, target of 2.85 million hectares has been fixed for creation of irrigation potential during 2007-08. State Governments are required to furnish information about creation of irrigation potential during the year 2007-08 by June, 2008.